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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,534	01/10/2002	Homer Chou	00044X215193	6245

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EXAMINER

VINH, LAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1765

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/043,534

Applicant(s)

CHOU ET AL.

Examiner

Lan Vinh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/15/2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's arguments, see page 2 of the response, filed 6/16/2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments, see pages 3-4 of the response, filed 6/16/2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-27 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground of rejection is made in view of Sinha et al (US 6,551, 935)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motorani et al (US 6,447,695) in view of Sinha et al (US 6,551,935)

Motorani discloses an aqueous dispersion composition and a polishing system for CMP a substrate. The polishing system includes water/liquid carrier (col 2, lines 55-57), a polishing pad and abrasive (col 10, lines 21-23; col 3, lines 49-50), a hydroxyl coupling agent (col 4, lines 30-36). Motorani also discloses that the aqueous dispersion

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composition for CMP contains no oxidizing agent (col 6, lines 58-60) and various additives can be included in the composition (col 7, lines 5-6)

Unlike the instant claimed invention as per claim 1, Motorani fails to disclose using ammonium oxalate in the aqueous dispersion composition

Sinha discloses a method for using a planarizing solution comprises the step of using ammonium oxalate in an aqueous polishing composition employed in a polishing system includes a polishing pad and abrasives (col 5, lines 14-18; col 6, lines 15-20)

Since Motorani is directed to a polishing system for polishing metal using an aqueous dispersion composition/slurry that includes additive, one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify Mororani composition by adding ammonium oxalate in the aqueous dispersion composition as per Sinha because Sinha discloses that one or more buffers such as ammonium oxalate may be used to adjust the pH of the slurry to a desired level (col 6, lines 7-10)

Unlike the instant claimed invention as per claim 5, Motorani fails to disclose using a fixed abrasive polishing pad

Sinha also discloses using a fixed abrasive polishing pad in one of the embodiment (col 8, lines 33-34)

Hence, one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify Motorani polishing system by using a fixed abrasive polishing pad as per Sinha because Sinha discloses that clean pre-operative sections of the fix-abrasive pad may be quickly substituted for used sections to provide a consistent surface for planarizing (col 8, lines 38-42)

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The limitations of claims 2-4, 6 have been discussed above

Regarding claims 7-8, Motorani discloses using silica as abrasive (Table 1)

Regarding claims 10-12, Motorani discloses using benzotriazole in the aqueous dispersion composition (col 6, lines 4-5)

Regarding claim 13, Motorani discloses using a silane-containing compound (col 4, lines 31-34)

Regarding claim 16, Motorani discloses that the pH of the composition is 1-9 (col 6, lines 30-31)

Regarding claims 17-18, 20-24, 26-27, Motorani discloses polishing a substrate comprises Cu, Ta and TEOS wherein the Cu:TEOS removal rate is approximately 0.56/1:2 (Table 1)

4. Claims 9, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motorani et al (US 6,447,695) in view of Sinha et al (US 6,551,935) and further in view of Allman et al (US 6,541,383)

Motorani as modified by Sinha et al has been described above. Unlike the instant claimed invention as per claims 9, 14, Motorani and Sinha fail to specifically using ureidopropyltrimethoxylane as the hydroxyl agent

Allman discloses a method for polishing a semiconductor wafer comprises the step of using ureidopropyltrimethoxylane in the aqueous polishing composition (col 7, lines 30-34)

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Hence, one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify Motorani and Sinha by using ureidopropyltrimethoxylane in the aqueous polishing composition as per Allman because Allman discloses that organofunctional silane such as ureidopropyltrimethoxylane can be utilized as adherence promoting ligands in the polishing composition (col 7, lines 10-13)

5. Claims 19, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motorani et al (US 6,447,695) in view of Sinha et al (US 6,551,935) and further in view of Ni (US 6,503,766)

Motorani as modified by Sinha et al has been described above. Unlike the instant claimed invention as per claims 19, 25, Motorani and Sinha fail to disclose the specific removal rate ratio of the Cu and Ta layer

Ni, in a method for CMP, discloses that a polishing rate can be optimized by adjusting a polishing parameter such as polishing agent flow (col 6, lines 3-7)

Thus, one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify Motorani and Sinha by adjusting the polishing agent flow to optimize the removal rate because Ni discloses that the polishing rate is a result-effective variable in the same field of endeavor

Response to Arguments

6.. Applicant's arguments with respect to reference of Chopra have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. However, Applicant's arguments

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with respect to the reference of Ni have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that Ni does not disclose any polishing composition or polishing system. This argument is unpersuasive because as recited in col 6, lines 10-22 in Ni, Ni discloses a polishing device capable of perform CMP. Thus, the examiner maintains that one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to employ Ni teaching in Motorani and Sinha method to produce the claimed invention

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lan Vinh whose telephone number is 571 272 1471.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton can be reached on 571 272 1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.



LV

August 4, 2005